

Figure 28 highlights the counties that gained and lost the most net employment between 2005 and 2010. For instance, Wake County added 30,000 net new jobs during the five year period, Mecklenburg added 20,300 new jobs, and Durham added another 12,128. At the same time, other metropolitan areas suffered even more than the state as a whole. In particular, the western Piedmont and Foothills areas experienced declining employment, with nearly 11,000 net jobs lost in Guilford and almost 20,000 jobs lost in the four-county Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir area.

Figure 28: NC Counties that Gained and Lost the Most Net Employment (2005-2010)

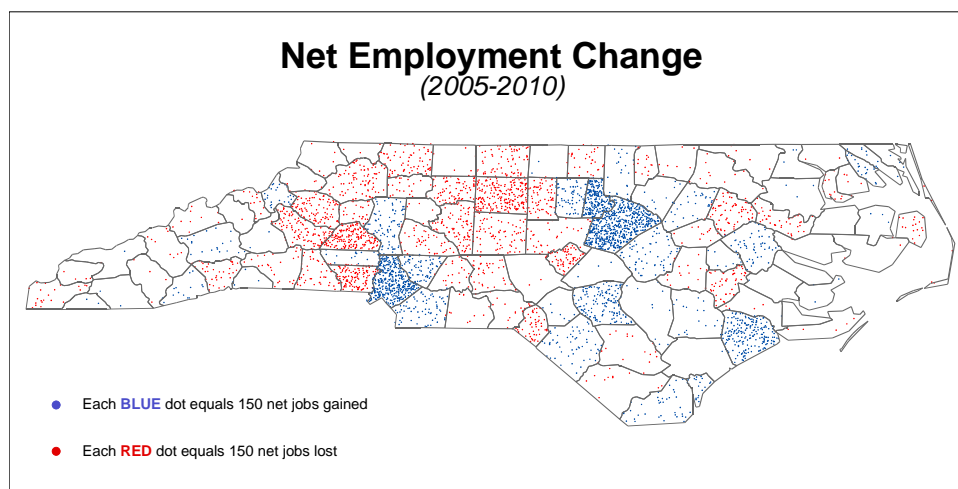
County	Emp. Change 05-10
Wake	29,995
Mecklenburg	20,295
Durham	12,128
Onslow	10,475
Cumberland	7,260
Caldwell	-4,706
Burke	-4,811
Gaston	-6,049
Catawba	-9,204
Guilford	-10,919

Source: EMSI

Figure 29 illustrates the regional disparities in job growth and decline in North Carolina between 2005 and 2010. A key factor in whether or not a metropolitan area gained or lost jobs during the recession was the industry mix already located in that region. Overall, the Research Triangle, Charlotte and its northeastern suburbs gained jobs as a result of their diverse mix of economic activity, particularly in technology, health care, and professional services. Employment in the Research Triangle's manufacturing base actually grew modestly as a result of the expansion of medical device and electronic equipment production in the region. The areas around Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg benefited due to growth in defense spending and added employment due to activities being relocated to these bases from other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, job losses were most severe in those metropolitan areas that were more reliant on manufacturing for employment. The Piedmont Triad, the greater Hickory area, and the western suburbs of Charlotte were particularly hard hit by the twin forces of globalization and technology on traditional manufacturing industries like furniture, textiles, and tobacco. While these particular metro economies sputtered long before the recession began, other metro areas with high concentrations of

Figure 29: Net Employment Change by County (2005-2010)



Source: EMSI

Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness